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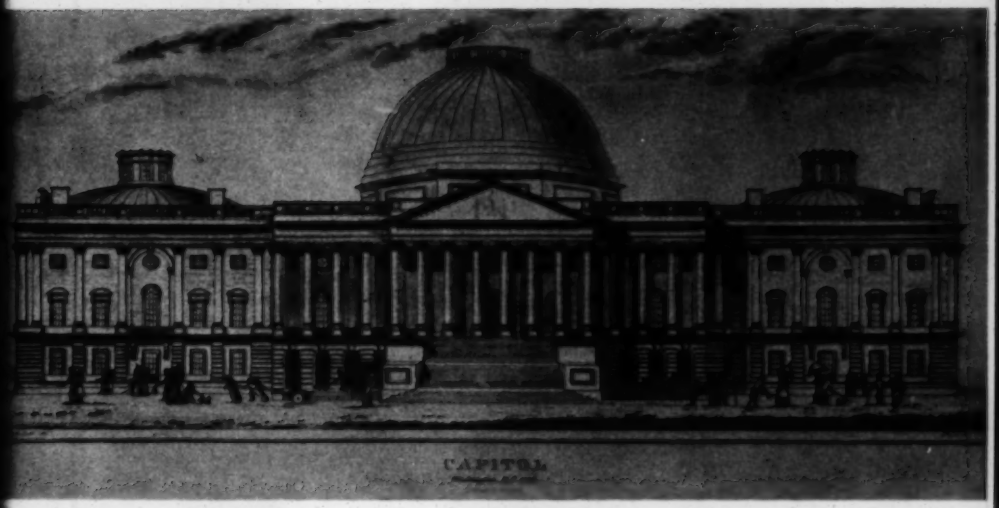

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Aerial view of the East Front, 1932. From left to right: House Wing, completed in 1857; Old House Wing, 1807; Dome, 1863; Rotunda, 1824; Old Senate Wing, 1800; Senate Wing, 1859.

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NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A GEOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY

January 1958

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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Historic Preservation

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CAPITOL EFFRONTERY

"Doesn't the public have a right to know how $10.1 million in tax money may be spent on changing the Capitol of the United States — a building which, we had been told, belonged to the American people?" asks the Washington *Post*, following a Senate hearing billed as a "half-past the eleventh hour" affair by its chairman, Senator Patrick V. McNamara (D-N.M.). "J. George Stewart, architect of the Capitol, painted himself into a corner by saying that plans for the 32½ foot-extension of the East Front of the Capitol 'are not for publication' and 'do not belong to the public.' "

Four days after the hearing, the special congressional commission, composed of Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.), Vice President Richard M. Nixon (R-Calif.), Senate Minority Leader William F. Knowland (R-Calif.), and Architect of the Capitol, J. George Stewart, voted to proceed with the extension of the East Front of the Capitol. A fifth member of the commission, House Minority Leader Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R-Mass.), opposed the proposed extension. Although Congress may reverse the action, the vote makes possible the letting of contracts within a month of February 21, with plans for the outside work to be completed by the 1961 inauguration.

Earlier the New York *Times*, in an editorial entitled "Capitol Folly," wrote: "In order to get 32½ feet more space, provide for some additional restaurant and office area, and 'balance' a building that has amply stood the test of time, it is planned to put a new facade on the central section, thus pushing forward and hopelessly altering the one part of the historic building whose simple beauty has served as a backdrop for presidential inaugurations for more than a century and a quarter.

Stereoscope view of Lincoln's inauguration 1861, showing the Thomas U. Walter dome under construction.

"Although this project has been in the legislative works since 1955, and $17 million has already been appropriated for it by a careless Congress, the February 17 hearing before the Senate Public Works Committee was the first to be held on the proposal. The essence of the plan goes back a half century, but that doesn't make it any better.

"We do not dispute the need of Congress for additional room; and we certainly do not begrudge the Senate its new (and second) office building, now nearing completion, nor the House its new (and third) office building under construction. But the historic East Front of the Capitol, product of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch, ought to be left alone."

Among those testifying against the proposed plan were: Julian E. Berla, chairman, Committee to Preserve the National Capitol; Leon Chatelain, Jr., president, American Institute of Architects; Lorimer Rich, New York chapter, A.I.A.; Wilbur Hunter, Society of Architectural Historians; Douglas Haskell, editor, *Architectural Forum*; and

Ralph Walker, chairman, Joint Committee on the National Capitol. Verner W. Clapp, as secretary of the Committee to Preserve the National Capitol, represented 27 organizations, many of them members of the National Trust; L. M. Leisenring, Columbia Historical Society, presented a resolution for Gen. U. S. Grant III, president of that society; and a statement for Henry Clay Hofheimer II, trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation, was presented by Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock.

Since 1939, the American Institute of Architects has five times protested the East Front alteration. Leon Chatelain, Jr., testified with a resolution adopted by the American Institute of Architects at their annual meeting in Minneapolis in June, 1955. According to Lorimer Rich, the architects have devised a plan which provides for practically all the new requirements without moving out and destroying the East Front, by putting the dining hall and committee rooms on the west front. Since legislation authorizing the extension forbids work on the west side, Bill S. 2883 was recently introduced by Senators H. Alexander Smith (R-N.J.), Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.), Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), and Joseph Clark (D-Pa.), to remove the requirement and make possible another solution.

The testimony of the National Trust reads, in part: "We would be remiss in our duty to the 242 member organizations and societies supporting our national program, and to our 2057 individual members in every section of this country, if we were to fail on their behalf to protest the destruction of one of the greatest of our nation's historical and architectural monuments, the Capitol itself, through ill-advised alteration of its noble east front.

"In the guise of 'necessary repairs,' 'improved circulation,' and 'additional facilities for work which must be done in the Capitol by the Congress,' the obliteration of the historic 'court of honor,' which has been the scene of the inauguration of every president since John Quincy Adams, is demanded.

"The National Trust has no desire to see the Capitol retained as a mausoleum of our nation's history . . . and wishes to express a hope that present needs and the heritage of the past can be so reconciled that future generations will receive from us at least this small part of our legacy."

In spite of nationwide newspaper publicity given to the East Front project following the February 17 hearing, the resultant national public reaction which is united against the present plans of the Commission, and attempts to block the move by concerned Congressmen, Sam Rayburn stands firm by the Commission's decision and the East Front extension may become an actuality before this publication is available.

Julian Berla, A.I.A., chairman of the Committee to Preserve the National Capitol, on February 3 placed a wreath on the grave of Dr. William Thornton, first architect of the Capitol. Mr. Berla was accompanied to the Congressional Cemetery by the members of the Society of Architectural Historians who attended the organization's 11th annual meeting in Washington.

HIGHWAYS OR BUY-WAYS?

During the second session of the 85th Congress, additional attempts are being made to override the billboard lobby and to control outdoor advertising along the 41,000 miles of the new Interstate and Defense Highways, to be built over a 13-year period, at a cost of $30 billion.

A trend in this direction was reported by the National Association of Travel Organizations which states that Union Oil Co. of California is discontinuing billboard advertising because of public resentment against it. On the other hand, owners of Skyline Caverns on U. S. Route 340, about one mile south of Front Royal, Va., are just outside the heavily traveled point where motorists enter and leave the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Since billboards or other forms of commercial advertising are not allowed on government property, they float a specially constructed silvery blimp 500 feet above the cavern entrance with the slogan, "Visit Skyline Caverns," emblazoned on each of its 28-foot sides.

The American Institute of Architects recently distributed a leaflet entitled "Express-Highways or Buy-Ways," prepared by the National Roadside Committee, 1214 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Committee states that roadside business slums and unrestricted outdoor advertising have impaired the usefulness and safety of thousands of miles of U. S. highways, making them unsightly, unsafe, and unfit for fast travel in the modern automobile. Principal opposition to federal control comes from the organized outdoor advertising industry, which insists that legislation should be on a state and local level. However, it consistently opposes laws or ordinances at these levels.

"The billboard interests will, as soon as these highways are completed, claim the new space created along the right-of-way as their own — ignoring the fact that this exists and has value only because the taxpayer's money has been spent to create the road it borders." — Mrs. Thomas Waller, Conservation Chairman, Garden Club of America.

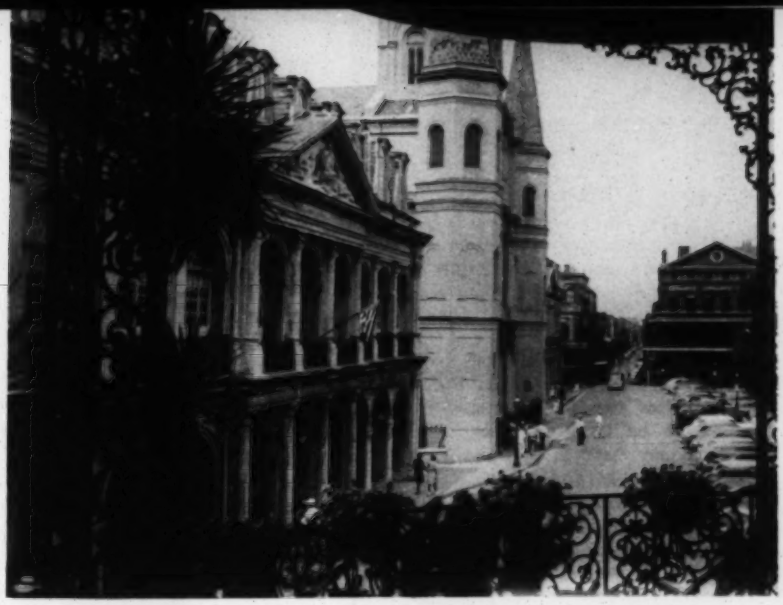
"Unless we strictly control indiscriminate mushroom growth of signs and billboards we will cancel out many of the benefits of this expensive public roads program."—Leon Chatelain, Jr., President, American Institute of Architects.

"No one familiar with the 60- or 70-mile speed limits permitted on these modern highways can believe that these signs and billboards—which are useless unless they do attract the attention of car drivers—can be anything but a menace to safety."—General U. S. Grant III, American Planning and Civic Association.

"I have no doubt that legally, the federal government might make adequate billboard control an essential condition in its federal-aid contracts with the states, just as it now requires a number of other conditions and standards for the interstate highways." —Senator Richard L. Neuberger (D) of Oregon.

* * *

ANTIQUES MAGAZINE has set aside a section for a concise guide to historic houses and landmarks throughout the country. The listing, which began with the April 1958 issue, is classified geographically and gives the state and city or town, name of house or landmark, street address, admission charges (if any), and dates and hours open. Member organizations may write Miss Barbara Snow, Managing Editor of *Antiques Magazine*, 601 Fifth Avenue, New York, for details of charges.



View of the French quarter of New Orleans. Left, the Cabildo (1795), the Louisiana State Museum; center, St. Louis Cathedral (1794); right, apartments built for Baroness Pontalba (1849-50). The buildings face Jackson Square, originally laid out in the Bienville plan of 1718 as the Place d'Arms. The street beyond extends into the Vieux Carre.

Annual Meeting

The twelfth annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be held October 31 - November 2 in New Orleans, La., with the Roosevelt Hotel serving as official headquarters. Notices and registration blanks will be sent to members and member organizations in the late spring.

In addition to the annual business meeting, two other sessions are planned for the reading of papers on preservation problems. Emphasis will be given to the dangers to historic sites caused by the 41,000 miles of new Interstate and Defense Highways.

Two tours are scheduled: one to Oak Allee and other important Mississippi River plantations, and the other to the great houses of the 1840-50 period in the Garden District of New Orleans. By special arrangement, the gardens and patios of the Vieux Carre will be open and illuminated during one of the evenings. A "free evening" has been planned for members, giving them an opportunity to make their own dinner arrangements at their choice of the famous restaurants of the French quarter. On Saturday, November 1, the annual reception and banquet will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel.

Meeting jointly with the National Trust will be the Boards of Architectural Review and the Conference on North American Historic Sites.

It is suggested that members planning to attend reserve the dates, but registration will be by official registration blank only, to be issued from headquarters well in advance of the meeting. There will be a closing date beyond which registrations may not be accepted. Since some of the excursions may be limited, early registrants will be given preference.

Adaptation and Preservation

Contemporary use is one solution that has been found for preserving a building that may not possess enough historic or cultural association or have sufficient architectural significance to be of national, state, or even local importance. A great number of these old properties of secondary quality continue to be used today as residences, some having been professionally restored and successfully adapted to modern living.

Current preservation philosophy frequently urges adaptation of an old property to a practical, contemporary function. By following this concept, the physical structure may be preserved and an atmosphere of a living past maintained. In addition to making a contribution to the community, the structure assists in its own economic survival, since it is rarely possible to secure the costs of restoration, or reconstruction, and maintenance from admissions only. According to a recent editorial from the Baltimore *Sun*, "Many an historic shrine would be the better off for fewer silk cords to remind that it is not to be used, but only looked at."

Preferred Mutual Fire Insurance Company has purchased an elaborate stone house in New Berlin, N. Y., built in 1831. Remodeled and refurnished as a guest house for the company's business associates, it is called "Preferred Manor." Of particular interest in the nineteenth-century building is the restored wallpaper in the main hall entitled "Chasse de Compiegne," printed by Pierre Jacquemart in Paris sometime between 1801 and 1834.

"Preferred Manor," New Berlin, N. Y.

Grassmount, a dormitory for women students of the University of Vermont, has been called the finest example of Georgian architecture in Vermont. The structure was built in 1804 and General Lafayette was entertained here when he came to Burlington to lay the cornerstone for the Old Mill. The building was named after a friend of Lafayette's, Comte de Grasse, an admiral in the French Navy who also fought in the Revolutionary War.

Television and air conditioning have been absorbed with dignity by the Cooper-Frost-Austin house, one of the two oldest residences in Cambridge, Mass. The seventeenth-century house, with eighteenth-century modifications and twentieth-century conveniences, is owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Although occupied by a private family, the house is open to the public.

A historic adobe, *Casa Amesti*, was accepted by the National Trust in 1954, as an example of early California architecture. Built about 1824 on the old plaza in Monterey, the house is operated by a men's club with resident and non-resident members, and opened on a regular schedule to the public.

The oldest and newest building in McVeytown, Pa., is the local post office. Constructed in 1795 as a farm house, today the converted interior contains up-to-date furnishings and equipment to serve 2,831 patrons and two rural routes.

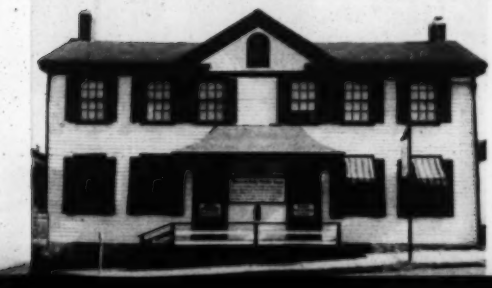
William Aiken House, Charleston, S. C., is the Division Headquarters of the Southern Railway System. It was built between 1807 and 1811 as the residence of William Aiken, first president of the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company, which inaugurated the American steam railroad era at Charleston, Christmas Day, 1830. The property was inherited by Governor William Aiken, Jr., who sold it in 1863 to the South Carolina Railroad Company, which later became a part of the Southern Railway System.

Barney Neighborhood House, 468-70 N Street, S. W., Washington, D. C., was built in 1795-96 as two private dwellings which were subsequently joined together. The owners, William Mayme Duncanson and William Cranch, were both prominent in the early development of the capital. Earmarked for retention by the Redevelopment Land Agency in the Southwest Redevelopment program, the property has been used as a settlement house for a number of years.

Prairie du Chien, Wis., League of Women Voters own and occupy a house built in 1842. It served as the office of Capt. Hiram Knowlton, who was in command of the volunteer company after the regular troops were withdrawn from Prairie du Chien's Fort Crawford in 1846 to serve in the Mexican War.

A mid-eighteenth-century jail, Waterford, Va., is owned by the Waterford Foundation and used as a tourist reception center, having been without "tenants" for many years.

The Becky Thatcher House, Hannibal, Mo.



William Aiken House, Charleston, S. C.

An overseer's residence at Colorado State Reformatory, Buena Vista, Colo., was at one time an imposing residence of an early pioneer and later a station for stages going into the Arkansas Valley. A keystone engraved "Centennial 1876" decorates the front of the house.

Family Service of Savannah, Ga., an agency under United Community Services, has its headquarters in the Davenport House. The mansion, a two-story brick structure of Georgian design, was purchased and restored recently by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

The Chase-Lloyd House, Annapolis, Md., is a three-story colonial structure. Construction on the house was begun in 1769 by Samuel Chase, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was completed in 1771 by Edward Lloyd IV. Francis Scott Key and Mary Tayloe Lloyd were married in the house in 1802. Since the house is operated as an Episcopal ladies' home, only the ground floor is open to the public.

Becky Thatcher Book Shop and Cafe is located in the Becky Thatcher House, Hannibal, Mo., built in the 1840's. This was the residence of Laura Hawkins, Samuel Clemens' childhood sweetheart, and the counterpart of Becky Thatcher in Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn.*

"Buffalo's White House" (N. Y.), where Theodore Roosevelt took the presidential oath following the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, is today a restaurant and bar. Known as the Wilcox Mansion, it was built in 1838 by the U. S. Army for a military barracks and was occupied the greater part of the military period by the post surgeon. At one time the mansion was headquarters of Gen. Winfield Scott, who had been sent to western New York with several companies of infantry and artillery to preserve our neutrality during the short-lived Patriots' War in Canada.

Yardley Building & Loan Association has remodeled for its offices the 1869 Yardley Friends Meeting House, Trenton, N. J.

On U. S. Route 20, at the entrance to Old Sturbridge Village, stands the Levi Lincoln House, a Greek revival mansion designed by Elias Carter and built in 1836 at Worcester, Mass. The historic house was saved by intercession of the National Trust and other groups when the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company wished to use the site for a new office building. Abraham Lincoln, William Howard Taft, Calvin Coolidge, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Edward Everett Hale, and other notables were entertained by the Lincoln family in the building which now serves as a restaurant and inn.

A Quaker meeting house in Newport, R. I., built in 1699, serves as a children's community center.

In Washington, D. C., a group of investors who believed that three handsome Federal style buildings, at 30th and M Streets, N. W., should not be sacrificed for a parking lot, formed Historic Georgetown, Inc., as a business venture. Stock was sold, and investors were promised eventual return. The National Trust is the largest stockholder of this venture, having received

Buffalo's White House

as gifts 23,725 shares of the common stock and 225 shares of the preferred stock of Historic Georgetown, Inc. The buildings are occupied by a restaurant, a florist shop, and an interior decorator's showroom. In the near future it is believed that the stocks will pay dividends, proving to be a source of revenue as well as a sound investment in preservation of three fine structures.

MEMBERSHIP

There have been 13 new member organizations since December, 1957:

Antiquarian Society of Richmond (Va.); Ephrata Cloister Associates (Pa.); Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc. (Tex.); Golden Rain Tree Association (Ind.); Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks; Main Street Association (R.I.); National Society Colonial Dames, State of Delaware; National Society Colonial Dames, State of Indiana; Old Fort Niagara Association, Inc. (N. Y.); Pittsburgh Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians (Pa.); The Little Garden Club of Rye (N. Y.); The Philadelphia Historical Commission (Pa.); The Saratoga Historical Society (N. Y.); and The Wyckoff Association in America.

LEGISLATION

Oklahoma Historical Society has been named as the authority to receive historic sites, buildings and objects, in a bill proposed in the Oklahoma legislature last year.

"Demolition by neglect" is the term used by the *Times-Picayune* to describe the method by which a 150-year-old structure at 1031 St. Louis St., New Orleans, was allowed to collapse. Since 1954, owners of the building had unsuccessfully sought permission from the Vieux Carre Commission to raze it. By failing to make any repairs, the owners permitted the building to get into such a deteriorated condition that a heavy rain resulted in its collapse and the director of the department of safety ordered it removed. Collins Diboll of the Commission stated he feared the impact of this technique on other uncooperative owners of property in the old French quarter. "It will be unfortunate if other owners accomplish demolition through neglect," he stated and recalled that the quarter has been named a $90 million asset to the city of New Orleans.

The board of selectmen of Lexington, Mass., have appointed a Lexington historic districts commission. In order to protect its famous battle green, the commission rejected a request by the Hancock Congregational Church asking permission to build an addition. The group said the existing building "is of late 19th century architectural type that is inappropriate to the historic battle green" and that an addition would only result "in a building that would tend to dominate the battle green with an architectural style or combination of architectural styles that would create an inappropriate setting for this area."

Beacon Hill Civic Association, Inc. (a Trust member organization), is advocating passage of legislation to extend the Beacon Hill Historic District to the Lower Beacon Hill area from the rear of Beacon Street blocks to Revere Street, and from Charles Street to Embankment Road. They also are proposing enlarging the powers and duties of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission. Major objectives are control of exterior paint colors and control of demolition.

Albuquerque, N. M., has established an Old Town zone designed to preserve its oldest downtown historic structures.

ELLIS ISLAND

Appraised at $6,277,200, historic Ellis Island and its 35 buildings are being sold for the federal government by the General Services Administration to the highest bidder. The 27 acres that constitute the island have played an important part in American history. Before the American Revolution, it served as a site for a pesthouse. Later, wealthy colonists came ashore for clam bakes and fishing parties. It also was used as an execution ground for hanging pirates. The island's name derives from Samuel Ellis, a butcher, who owned it in 1785. Bought by the federal government in 1808 for $10,000, it served as a part of the defense of New York harbor. In World War II, Ellis Island was a training center for the Coast Guard. Its use for immigrants came after 1890, but it has been closed since 1954 because aliens' papers are processed in their native lands and final inspections made aboard ship or plane before the immigrants set foot on American soil. The city of New York would like to have the island for the establishment of a hospital for narcotics addicts and legislation for this purpose was introduced into the New York Senate. The state of New Jersey is also interested in the site; and a group of industrialists proposes its use for housing or recreational development.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Nantucket Historical Association, Mass., announces the establishment of the Nantucket Historical Trust, a fund of $20,000 to be used in assisting local organizations in furthering cultural aims. The specific purposes as listed by the trustees are: "to preserve, restore, repair, or maintain buildings, monuments, sites, and property, real and personal, of historical significance or of educational, aesthetic, or cultural value on Nantucket Island; to assist the Nantucket Historical Association in accomplishing any or all of the purposes described above and to make payments or transfers of real or personal property to it; to make payments to corporations, trusts, community chests, funds, or foundations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes; to make expenditures in such manner and to such persons as they deem proper for the advancement or promotion of science, learning, medicine, surgery, literature, music, art, or human welfare."

1957 was a record year for Old Fort Niagara, N. Y.; 300,000 people visited the fort as compared with 238,000 in 1956.

The Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, in expectation of what may become an important aspect of Cincinnati's growth, has appointed a representative on the Mayor's Riverfront Development Commission. Since a historical museum or some other historical recognition is suggested for this area, the Society decided to take an active part in discussion of the plan. As a result of the decision to demolish a large part of downtown Cincinnati to make way for the Third Street Distributor and to rehabilitate areas of the West End, the group also originated a plan to take 3,000 photographs of historic houses for type and architectural detail. This project is well underway with at least half of the photographs completed and will be extended to cover other Cincinnati areas. "Such a program," says the Society, "has no end, for building and tearing down and building again will go on for years to come."

The Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Wilmington, Del., and the University of Delaware, announce two $1,800 fellowships in American history to candidates for the master's degree. For further information, write to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Delaware, Newark.

The Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, N. Y., has accepted plans for a $2 million building designed by Philip Johnson, A.I.A., with construction to start in April. The building will contain offices and exhibition space. The main floor, with acoustical ceiling and movable partitions, is designed to accommodate a full symphony orchestra. One old building, originally built for other purposes, will be removed. An adjacent house will be restored, and two remodeled carriage houses, now used by the School of Art, will be retained. The Utica firm of Bice and Baird is associated with Mr. Johnson in the construction.

George Schaun, a faculty member of the 1955 Historic-House Keeping Course at Cooperstown, N. Y., has written a new publicity manual, prepared on an "easy-to-put-into-practice principle," containing concise and simply expressed instructions concerning basic publicity techniques. Brochures on his new "Do-It-Yourself" publicity plan, which includes the publicity manual, are available at National Trust headquarters.

The Illinois State Historical Library was authorized by state law to accept the Rendleman House, in Cairo, as a gift from the owners, Mr. and Mrs.

Frederick J. Grieve. The bill stipulated that the Historical Library will, "in conjunction with the Illinois State Historical Society, establish, maintain and operate such property as a museum depicting and portraying the history of the Mississippi River and its tributaries," and provided a biennial appropriation of $27,000 for that purpose. Rendleman House is a two-story brick mansion built in 1865 by Captain William Parker Halliday, a Cairo businessman with sentimental memories of his days as a riverboat captain. He incorporated a number of reminders of the river in his land home. Around the edge of the flat part of the mansard roof is a low ornamental iron railing giving it the effect of a ship's deck. The entrance onto the roof from the third floor is through a glassed-in landing built to resemble a pilot house. Another unusual feature of the Rendleman House is the little third floor theatre, complete with stage, proscenium arch, curtain, floodlights and backdrops. State Historian Walton, seeing the room for the first time, decided this would be the place for the showboat exhibit of the future museum.

American Folk Art will be featured in the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service at the Brussels World Fair of 1958. Mrs. John A. Pope, chief of the Service, and Leslie Cheek, Jr., director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Art in Richmond, have been designated to select approximately 75 characteristic paintings and sculptures to show life in America in the early eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

To preserve and refurnish the house of Pierre Menard in Kaskaskia, the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials has been given an appropriation of $47,500. Menard, who amassed a fortune in fur trading, general merchandise, and land speculation, was

The Rendleman House, Cairo, Ill.

the first lieutenant-governor of Illinois, when the city served as territorial capital. Begun in 1802, the house and its dependencies are excellent examples of French-American architecture of the Federal period.

Historic Richmond Foundation has acquired the house at 2407 East Grace Street, built in 1844 by the estate of John Van Lew. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities gave $12,000 to purchase it, not only because of its architectural quality, but because it is believed to have been the house where Edgar Allen Poe bade farewell to his childhood sweetheart, Elmira Royster Shelton, just before his fatal journey to Baltimore. The Foundation plans to renovate it as a rental property as part of its program of reclamation of historic Church Hill area surrounding St. John's Church.

1957 book award of the Society of Architectural Historians was awarded to Professor Frederick D. Nichols, A.I.A., for his book, *Early Architecture of Georgia*, at the group's recent annual meeting in Washington. Mr. Nichols is a member of the faculty of the department of architecture, University of Virginia, and is serving as architect for low-cost housing units for married students. In addition he is consultant for *Monticello*, and for the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the Virginia inventory.

FOREIGN PRESERVATION

New uses for old churches have been found since the movement of resident population to suburbs has created a redundancy of churches in many city centers, including London. The Georgian Group of London reports that there are four Georgian churches in London, all of outstanding merit, where alternative or supplementary uses have been found. A portion of Holy Trinity, St. Marylebone (Soane, 1825), has been converted into offices by the retention of a much smaller church. The building remains unaltered in external appearance, although the interior has been completely reorganized. St. George-in-the-East, Stepney (Hawksmore, 1712-30), was gutted by enemy action. Since it was designed to hold a congregation of 1500 where there are now no more than 600, there was no necessity for restoring it to its original state. Plans have been made to retain a small church in the center of the building, to adapt the former crypt for use as a church hall, and to construct at gallery level four residential flats with ancillary offices. The conversion of St. Peter's, Regent Square (Inwood, 1822), is also contemplated. The interior will become a hall, with necessary offices, which can be used for concerts, lectures, drama, or dancing, with a branch of the Public Library in the gallery. St. John's, Westminster (Archer, 1721-28), merely a shell as the result of war damage, is no longer needed for parochial purposes and will be turned into a concert hall.

A Norwegian national committee known as the State Antiquary has prepared plans for the complete restoration of the fifteen oldest churches in northern Norway, according to the Norwegian Information Service. Most of the restoration work will include both the interior and exterior of the structures, and three churches dating from the eleventh century will be brought back to their original medieval style. The biggest problem facing the State Antiquary is the movement of the Tomsoysund church about 900 feet from its present location. The church towers of several ancient edifices will be torn down in order that the roofs over the vestry, choir, and nave may be rebuilt as steep as they were originallv.

ROBIE HOUSE SAVED

Future of Chicago's Robie House is assured according to December announcements. The house which Frank Lloyd Wright built in 1906, and regarded by many historians as the Wright house having the earliest and most effective influence on modern residential architecture, will be bought by William Zeckendorff, New York builder, for $125,000. Plans of the Chicago Theological Seminary to demolish the house last September, in order to build a dormitory to accommodate married students, brought nationwide protest by civic leaders, architects, and historians. The purchase sum will be sufficient for the seminary to acquire an alternate site satisfactory for its needs.

Mr. Zeckendorff plans to use the Robie House for his office for several years during the construction of two urban redevelopment programs in nearby Hyde Park. The construction firm will perform necessary rehabilitation and, during its occupancy, open Robie House to the public. Wh n the projects are completed, Mr. Zeckendorff stated he would donate the house to an appropriate nonprofit organization for use as a library and museum of architecture and city planning.

CALENDAR NOTES

April 7: Third session of "Restoration of Old Houses," a second seminar held by The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Inc. of Connecticut; The Connecticut Historical Society; and The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Fourth session of the seminar will be held *April 21.*

April 19-26: 25th Annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Proceeds from admission fees are used for restoration of grounds and gardens of historic sites by the Garden Club of Virginia, sponsor of this event.

April 26-May 2: Cruise of remote Scottish islands. Additional information may be obtained from the Organizing Secretary, the National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh 2.

April 29-May 11: 21st Annual Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, under the auspices of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, Maryland Historical Society, and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Proceeds are used to maintain the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis, and aid in the restoration of other places of historic interest in the state.

May 1-3: 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Museums, Charleston, S. C.

May 3-10: Cruise to outstanding gardens on west coast of Scotland and Northern Ireland. For additional information communicate with the Organizing Secretary, the National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh 2.

May 18-22: National Planning Conference, Annual Meeting of American Society of Planning Officials, Washington, D. C.

May 26-31: Georgian Convention Week, Dublin, Ireland, sponsored by the Irish Tourist Board. Outstanding buildings will be visited, including Powerscourt House, Dublin; Powerscourt and Russborough in Wicklow County; and Birr Castle in King's County. For additional information write to Conventions Officer, Bord Failte, Dublin; or D. M. C. Hopping, 120 Midland Avenue, Bronxville, N.Y.

June 23-Aug. 1: Fifth Annual Session of Institute of Historical and Archival Management, Radcliffe College, sponsored jointly by the College and Department of History of Harvard University. The Institute is under the direction of Lester J. Cappon, director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture and archival consultant of Colonial Williamsburg.

June 27-29: Spring meeting ot the Early American Industries Association, Doylestown. Pa.

July 4-24: 7th Annual National Trust (of England, Wales and Northern Ireland) Summer School, run in association with Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, for the study of the historic houses of England. Leaflets with additional information at the office of the National Trust (of the United States), 2000 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

July 6-19: Semmars in Early American Culture, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N. Y.

July 8: Bicentennial of the Battle of Carillon, Fort Ticonderoga, N. Y.

July 8-11: American Institute of Architects annual meeting, Cleveland, Ohio.

July 19-Aug. 2: The Fourth Bath Summer School for the Study of Late Stuart and Georgian Architecture and the Decorative Arts, sponsored by the Courtauld Institute of Art, London University, to be held in Bath, Somerset, England. Additional information may be secured from the National Trust, 2000 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Pioneer Log Cabins

The log cabin, a superior form of construction for a pioneer society, became the subject of a mid-nineteenth century romantic myth. So pervasive was the myth that it still overshadows historic fact, and many persons today are unaware of being misinformed.

According to Hugh Morrison in *Early American Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 1952): "By 'log cabin' we mean a dwelling built of round logs, laid horizontally one on another, with notched corners and protruding ends . . . each log has a curved notch cut on both top and bottom to permit a close interlock. Spaces between logs, if any, are chinked with moss, clay, or oak chips. According to this definition, the log cabin did not exist in any of the English colonies in the seventeenth century. . . . Neither did the Dutch use it in New Netherland, nor the French in Canada. It was a form of construction unknown in England, France, Holland, and southern Europe generally; it was likewise unknown to the American Indian."

Quoting Harold R. Shurtleff, *The Log Cabin Myth* (Harvard University Press, 1939): "The only colonists who brought with them a log-house technique were the Swedes, who began to settle on the shores of Delaware Bay in 1638. They built log-wall dwellings common in Sweden. However, all examples of Swedish-American houses that have survived are built of squared or plank-shaped timbers."

A surviving example of seventeenth-century Swedish construction is the birthplace of John Morton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Prospect Park, Pa. It consists of two one-room log houses, both of plank-shaped timbering, the first section built in 1654 and the second in 1698, connected by a stone section of 1806. The John Morton Homestead was restored in 1935 and is operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and is used as the administration center of the nearby Governor Printz Park.

Cover of *General Harrison's Log Step*, published by Saml. Carr

According to Shurtleff, the log cabin, if it had been known, would have supplanted the flimsy dugouts, cabins, and wigwams which the English settlers actually built. When replacing their initial quarters these colonists followed inherited crafts and constructed frame houses in the English tradition; in New Amsterdam the Dutch favored brick houses with gabled roofs and corbiesteps.

English colonists, as early as 1611 in Virginia, and during the middle of

son's Log Cabin March & Quick
aml. Carusi, Baltimore, 1840.

the century in Maine, did build blockhouses and prisons of logs hewn square and notched at the corners for either lapped or dovetailed joints. This type of solid wall construction was stronger, but required many tools, much skill and time, whereas the log cabin, although it would not have confined prisoners or afforded protection from armed assault for very long, was strong, durable, reasonably weatherproof, and could be constructed quickly out of pine and spruce logs readily available in most wilderness regions. No nails or other hardware were required; the only tool necessary was the axe. Thomas Paine writes that the Continental Army when ordered by Washington to build about 900 log huts at Valley Forge, "appeared to be like a family of beavers . . . the whole was raised in a few days."

In the eighteenth century, German settlers in Pennsylvania built large numbers of log houses, using both squared-log and round-log construction. Since most of the Germans entered the country by way of the Delaware Valley, they may have acquired the technique from the Swedes, though log construction was known in Switzerland and in parts of Germany, and they may have introduced it independently.

It was the Scotch-Irish who did most to popularize the use of the log cabin. Penetrating to the frontier of Maine and New Hampshire, pushing westward across the Alleghenies and southward into Virginia and North Carolina, the Scotch-Irish made the log cabin a symbol of the American pioneer. The form became common by the mid-eighteenth century, and the first recorded use of the word "log cabin" in its modern sense was in 1770 in an Irish community in the Valley of Virginia.

Shurtleff writes that the confusion, which he calls the "Log Cabin Myth," started in the famous "log cabin and hard cider" presidential campaign of 1840. A newspaper sneer, stating that the White House was too good for William Henry Harrison, caused Harrison to be publicized as the kind of American who would be proud to live in a log cabin.

Harrison won the election and the log cabin became a symbol of courage, simplicity, honesty, ruggedness, and plain democratic homely Americanism. It is especially associated with Andrew Jackson and Lincoln. Although impossible to say with certainty that it is the original, a cabin known as the "traditional" birthplace log cabin of Lincoln was visited by 287,521 persons in 1957. Under the administration of the National Park Service, the structure is encased in the Memorial

Building at the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Hodgenville, Ky. Lincoln is also honored at the rebuilt New Salem Village, Ill. It was here that he lived for six years, served as postmaster as well as deputy surveyor and legislator, and failed in business. On the park grounds is the original log shop in which Lincoln studied by the light of a fire made from the cooper's shavings.

"Once launched," continues Shurtleff, "the Log Cabin Myth found easy going. The public was predisposed to accept it, no historian had sufficient knowledge to challenge it, and the dominant school of sociology taught that arts and crafts evolved through a spontaneous reaction of the individual to his environment rather than by derivation from an older culture." A few log-cabin illustrations undoubtedly did more to spread the myth than all the writings of historians, based upon misinterpretation of historical documents.

Although there is no known "society for the preservation of log cabins," there are many remaining structures which serve as three-dimensional historical documents.

Perhaps the oldest dwelling in Dallas still on its original site, and also known as the first school house, is a one-room log cabin. It was built in 1847 by a Kentuckian, who had brought his family by wagon train from Missouri. It served as both home and school to 12 little girls and a woman teacher imported from Kentucky; classes were held in the house and each night the students slept in the loft.

Restoration of Sam Houston's one-room log schoolhouse was undertaken several years ago at Maryville, Tenn. Affluent Texans tried to buy it and move it to the Lone Star State, but Tennessee refused to sell it. Although Texas claims Houston, when Houston was asked late in life to relate his most interesting experience, he claimed it was a teacher in a little one-room schoolhouse in Blount County, Tenn.

In 1880 five cottonwood log houses were built in Meeker, Colo., after an Indian massacre, to serve as quarters of a strengthened Army unit. For a long time the five buildings were empty, but recently they were taken over by private citizens and businessmen. Today one has been torn down to make way for a street, one is a residence, another is a museum operated by the Rio Blanco Historical Society, the fourth is a shop called "The Garrison," and the fifth is a mortuary.

Many log cabins are hidden from view, still in existence and very much in use although covered by later construction. A log cabin in Nebraska City, Nebr., for 77 years within a frame house, was recently revealed when the house was torn down to make room for a new structure. The cabin will be moved several miles to the site of the John Brown Cave and Museum. —T. B.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Millinocket, Me. Remains of a furnace and kiln of the old Katahdin Iron Works near Brownsville have been proposed for preservation as a monument to a pioneer mining and metallurgical effort in the state of Maine. The works are believed to be located on an ancient site used by Indians as a source of paint, before white settlers entered the area in 1815.

Braintree, Mass. The Walworth Co., manufacturers of precision steel products who are erecting a $5 million plant in the area where the birthplace of Gen. Sylvanus Thayer stands, have offered to match dollar for dollar all funds raised by the efforts of the

Braintree Historical Society to save the 238-year-old landmark. General Thayer, born in the old saltbox house in 1785, has been known as "The Father of West Point" and was nominated by President Eisenhower and General MacArthur this year to New York University's Hall of Fame.

Albany, N. Y. New York Assemblymen Chase and Hughes introduced legislation to preserve the Weighlock building in Syracuse and maintain it as a canal museum. As its name signifies, the building was constructed originally to weigh barges that plied the Erie Canal through Syracuse. It is feared that the structure, the only canal building of its type remaining in New York state, may be in the path of a proposed expressway. According to Chase, "If a law can be passed now to preserve the site, then it wouldn't be available for the highway purposes anyway. But if action was delayed, until the highway site was selected, it would be too late to do anything to save the structure."

Beaufort, S. C. Beaufort County's Historical Society recently decided to restore an Episcopal chapel of ease ruins at St. Helena Island. Vandalized during the Civil War, the chapel has been out of use for about one hundred years.

Detroit, Mich. "Good city planning includes the best of the old with the best of the new," stated William E. Woolfenden, head of the Art Institute's education department, in pleading for the preservation of the Old City Hall. The stone structure in the French Renaissance style has been a focal downtown point of the city for 72 years. Efforts are being made to preserve the building on its site or seek funds for its removal elsewhere in accordance with a proposal from the Greater Detroit Board of Commerce.

Tiburon, Calif. To provide for suitable headquarters for the Audubon Society, the Marin Conservation League had a century-old house lifted from its Strawberry Point foundation and loaded onto a barge, for a half-mile trip to its future site at Rogers Beach. The old mansard structure with elaborate cupola was built as a residence for Dr. Lyford's daughter, Hilarita, on the occasion of her marriage, and was one of the oldest in the county.

Helena, Mont. The Chamber of Commerce proposed that the 70-year-old Montana governor's mansion be given, or leased, to them for preservation and maintenance as a historical museum and place of interest. A new governor's mansion is being constructed near the Capitol and Gov. J. Hugo Aronson and his family plan to move to the structure sometime next year. The present mansion, obtained from the Chessman family, has been used for Montana governors since 1913. The suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce was presented to the Montana Board of Examiners who said the deed to the building would have to be found to make certain the house does not revert to the Chessman estate when the state of Montana no longer occupies the building.

Jackson, Miss. In his speech to the legislature at the opening of the biennial session, Gov. J. P. Coleman called attention to historic sites. "I fear that we have been quite indifferent to the material preservation and development of these important symbols of a respected past," he said in asking the legislatures to appropriate funds to create four historic parks, erect a monument to Jefferson Davis, and complete the restoration of the old state capitol.

IN DANGER

Washington, D. C. The Commission of Fine Arts, of which David E. Finley (chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) is chairman, leads opposition to a proposed bridge across the Potomac, just north of the existing Arlington Memorial Bridge. According to Mr. Finley, "the bridge with its complex of cloverleafs and interchanges will impinge on the Lincoln Memorial, the Marine Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Island, and other great memorials in this area." Similarly, Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect, has pointed out that, bad as the bridge may be, "the proposed completed network of roadways at both ends of the bridge will result in a more wholesale destruction of distinguished park lands than will the structure itself." Since giving its approval to the bridge in 1954, the Senate has endorsed a tunnel. General U. S. Grant, 3d, says that the masonry bridge now proposed would cost $25 or $26 million—"at least as much as a four-lane tunnel, which would bring in all the traffic that could be handled by streets in the Lincoln Memorial area." Former President Herbert Hoover, Alexander Hamilton, and Bruce Catton are members of a small group of prominent citizens protesting the bridge plan; the American Institute of Architects, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, the National Park Service, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have registered protest.

Mineral Wells, Tex. The Hexagon House, a 61-year-old structure of steel, stone, and timber, will be torn down soon according to one of its three owners, Mrs. Ann Meriwether. It was built by her father, the late David Gehugh Galbraith, a great admirer of bees who modeled the floor plan after a honeycomb. Each room has six sides; all rooms have outside ventilation and most rooms have windows which face in three directions. The walls of the ground floor are of thick native stone. The heavy timbers used in the rest of the house were constructed under Mr. Galbraith's very critical eye, with each piece of wood dipped into creosote before it was put in place. The tile floors on the first floor are in hexagon patterns; even the dishes in the kitchen are hexagonal. "We have an average of 40 persons a week go through the house, almost all of them from out of town," said Mrs. Meriwether, "and hundreds more stop just to see the exterior. Yet we can no

Fate in Doubt—This is *Kiplin Hall*, the Jacobean mansion built in 1620 by Maryland's founder, George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, in Yorkshire, England. The English National Trust stated they could not justify accepting *Kiplin Hall* for preservation as a national monument on architectural grounds, since the house has been much restored and has an anachronistic Victorian wing. Both the Maryland Historical Society and The Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities have showed interest in *Kiplin Hall* but are unable to finance so large and distant a project.

longer afford to keep up a 30-room, 4-story house just so the tourists can look at it."

Houston, Texas. Four hundred members of the Harris County Heritage and Conservation Society (a Trust member organization) strongly protested a proposed addition to U. S. Highway 75 through Sam Houston Park, which will destroy most of the city's oldest park. The Society is engaged in restoring the 110-year-old Noble House in the park, the city's oldest landmark; the group plans to move the Cherry House to the area and restore it. Their proposals for the historic area of the park include an old carriage house and church.

Wading River, Long Island, N. Y. The James A. Keillor homestead and adjoining Keillor Farm Museum, the major portion of Hart's Nursery (which for fifty years has propagated trees, shrubs and flowers), are all scheduled for removal if a proposed extension of a navy missile base in the area is approved. The Navy seeks to acquire 7000 acres in the area by outright purchase, and obtain easements of 2000 acres as a buffer zone for the Navy's facility at Calverton and North Manorville. The Wading River Historical Society is opposing the acquisition.

Madera County, Calif. Remains of J. D. Savage, discoverer of Yosemite Valley, and the monument which marks his grave on the bank of the Fresno River will be moved to higher ground if the proposed Hidden Dam project is built. The tall shaft which has marked his grave near the site of his old trading post, for more than a century, was shipped around the Horn from Connecticut and hauled in by mule train.

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILES

"When a car is over 25 years old," writes Miss Mary Wingfield Scott in *Old Richmond News*, "it is rated an antique and for a nominal sum is given a permanent license. When a house is over 100 years old, if the owner repairs it his taxes leap up, often several times. Yet few would dispute which was more valuable to the community, whether from its effect on living-conditions and on surrounding property or as an attraction to tourists.

"May we propose that any building 100 years or older that is put or kept in good condition in a manner approved by our new Board of Architectural Review be classed as an antique, and that so long as it is thus maintained the building itself be tax-free? If it is in an area of high land values, the city could still tax the land as it does the rest of that neighborhood. But the owner would not be discouraged from making repairs by the knowledge that his taxes would immediately increase.

"Actually, a majority of our hundred-year-old buildings are in low-tax areas, and this incentive to keep them up and restore them tastefully should increase values around them, lift the level of slums, and improve neighborhoods or individual buildings for tourists to enjoy. Aside from these intangible returns, we believe that in a few years the effect in dollars and cents would more than compensate for any small temporary loss in tax revenue."

Farmington

Farmington, at Louisville, Ky., the only house in the region known to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson, was recently purchased by Historic Homes Foundation, Inc. The group plans to furnish and open the 147-year-old house and its 5-acre grounds to the public as a historic and architectural site. Realizing widespread interest in the structure, the owners determined not to sell *Farmington* to an individual, but to some group interested in preserving it. According to Barry Bingham, the Foundation's president, the money for the purchase price of $65,000 was raised from a large group of interested citizens. Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., was recently organized for the "acquisition, restoration, and maintenance of historic sites," with its first purpose to save *Farmington.*

Farmington was built for John Speed, between 1798 and 1810, according to plans drawn by President Thomas Jefferson. Fiske Kimball established Jefferson's authorship of the *Farmington* plan which is still in existence, although it was altered in some details by the Louisville craftsmen who built the house. Writing in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* in 1950, Kimball said: "The essential scheme of this plan of Jefferson's unique in his work, is its having the two octagonal rooms back to back, separated by a hall and each flanked by square bedrooms within a generally square mass, 50 by 62 feet."

In furnishing the house, the Foundation will be guided by the example of the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation (a National Trust member organization), a group of citizens

who bought, furnished, and restored the Hunt-Morgan House on Lexington's Gratz Park.

Professor Walter L. Creese of the University of Louisville recently discovered a chancery suit filed in 1840 in a circuit court giving a detailed inventory of *Farmington*, its 530-acre farm, and all its furnishings, farm equipment, and even the crops standing in the field. The suit was a friendly one among heirs of John Speed to settle questions of value. The inventory shows that most of the furniture in the house was either cherry or mahogany. It describes the carpets, books recently purchased by John Speed (works of Herodotus, Xenophon, Thucydides, poems of Wordsworth), and kitchen utensils. It also listed a number of "matrasses" made of corn shucks and horsehair; a rush-bottomed piece of furniture called a "sociable," and two spinning wheels.

The spacious 14-room house was visited by Abraham Lincoln in 1841. Lincoln was a close friend of John Speed's son, Joshua Fry Speed.

Landmarks

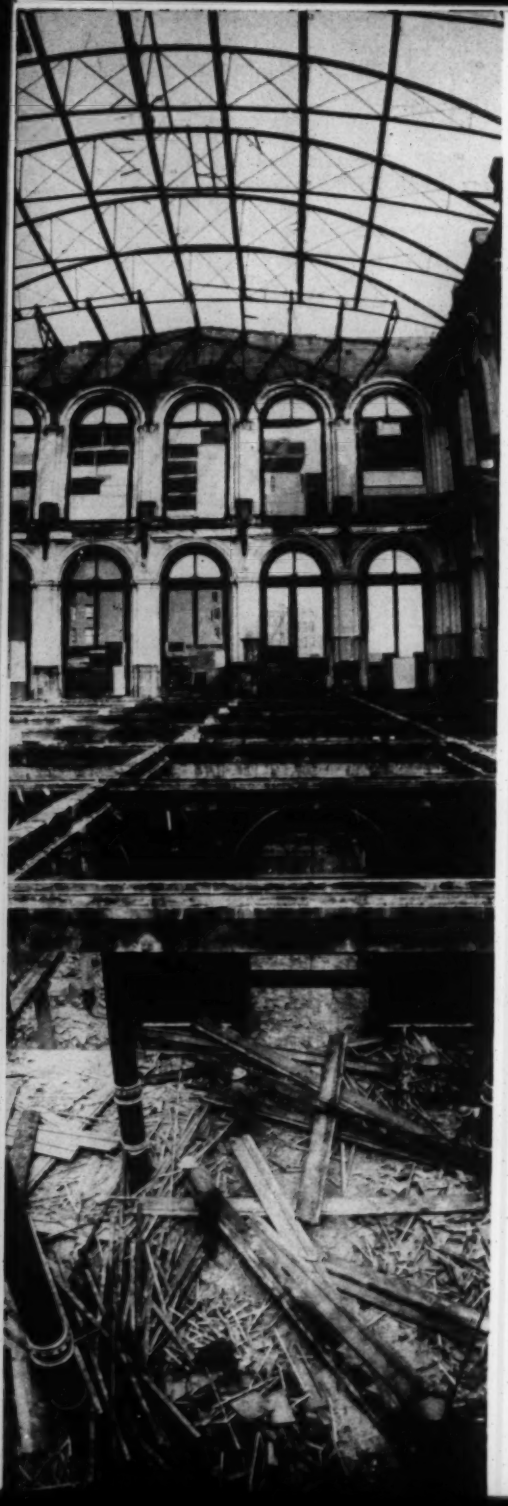
"Landmarks of New York," a program for the placement of descriptive plaques on locations notable for historical associations or architectural distinction, was inaugurated during the winter by the New York Community Trust, following a year of preparatory groundwork. A plaque was adopted by the Community Trust after consultation with representatives of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Municipal Art Commission. Inscriptions were prepared by a committee of historians, consisting of Wayne Andrews; Professor John A. Kouwenhoven, Barnard College; and John Walden Myer, director, the Museum of the City of New York.

The first group of buildings designated as landmarks include: the Bowery Savings Bank, 110 East 42nd Street; Carnegie House, Fifth Avenue and 91st Street; Central Synagogue, 652 Lexington Avenue; Church of Ascension, Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street; Church of St. Paul the Apostle, 60th Street and Columbus Avenue; Grace Church, Broadway at Tenth Street; Grand Central Terminal, Park Avenue and 42nd Street; Guaranty Trust Company Building, 140 Broadway; Metropolitan Life Tower, One Madison Avenue; New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street; New York Daily News Building, 220 East 42nd Street; New York Stock Exchange, Broad and Wall Streets; New York Times Tower, Times Square; No. 9 East 72nd Street; St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway at Fulton Street; St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue and 53rd Street; Tiffany & Company, 140 East 41st Street; The University Club, One West 54th Street; and Woolworth Building, 233 Broadway.

Landmarks are selected from *The Index of Historical Architecture*, published by the Municipal Art Society with the aid of a Community Trust grant.

* * *

"A School for Johnny" and "What's A House?" are the first two semi-animated films in a series planned by the American Institute of Architects. The latter illustrates that man's home, whatever his specific needs, must be liveable, provide companionship, warmth, and the satisfaction of ownership. Prints of both 16 mm. films with color and sound may be used by schools and civic groups, and purchased from AIA headquarters, *The Octagon*, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., for $65.00, or rented for $5.00 each.



DESTRUCTION

New York, N. Y. Two town houses at 12 and 14 West 12th Street, designed by Andrew Jackson Davis, have been razed to provide space for the children's program of nearby First Presbyterian Church. No. 12, nearest the churchyard, was built in 1849, and the other, built in 1866, was occupied by Thurlow Weed. Both houses had notable interiors, rich composition ornament, elaborate woodwork of rare and unusual woods, and stained glass skylights over the stairwells.

Pawtucket, R. I. Fire starting in a boiler room in the basement, and fed by paint stored by workmen who were painting the exterior of the historic First Baptist Church, completely destroyed the 120-year-old structure.

The interior of the Old Merchants Exchange Building, St. Louis, Mo., shown during the stripping process with only a skeleton of roofing girders remaining above the expanse of the main trading floor. The 82-year-old landmark boasts a colorful commercial, cultural, and social history; its reputation for opulence is well-founded on the materials of the building itself. All hardware was made of solid brass with hand-wrought designs, although covered by paint in recent years. The woodwork of every description, hand-carved paneling, doors, and even window sashes, was fashioned from solid walnut. Wall areas not covered by walnut were finished with thick slabs of marble, so much marble that one supplier estimated replacing it today would cost $2,500,000, more than twice the original cost of the entire building. However, the cost of land has dropped. In the early 1870's when the site was prime commercial property, it cost $561,700; the sale price last year was $500,000.

Asheville, N. C. Efforts of the Western North Carolina Historical Society to maintain *Witchwood*, the old Woolsey residence, have failed according to the report of a three-member committee; the handsome Richardsonian structure, standing in a wooded park, will be razed for a subdivision. The committee had hoped to create a civic arts center in the area, but the estimated cost of necessary renovation was set at $10,000, and another $30,000 would have been needed to adapt it for the purpose.

Memphis, Tenn. The decision to replace a Victorian mansion of 1893 with a modern Cossitt Branch Public Library having vertical, aluminum, shade-producing fins to complement a nearby Federal building in the area, at a price of $60,000, is commended by the *Commercial-Appeal*. The editors state, "An 1893 landmark which is not usable, which indeed is a label that says Memphis is behind times, has a better place in memory than in actuality."

Key West, Fla. Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Tropical Hotel, one of the oldest buildings in the city, despite the assistance of the Navy Fire Department and volunteers, who aided the city Fire Department to save the remainder of the old business section of the city.

Reading, Mass. Towle House, which has been standing on West Street since its erection in 1795 by Asa Richardson, stood in the way of new Route 28, now under construction. The town's fire chief set the fire and while firemen and townspeople watched, the landmark was consumed in less than an hour, leaving two gaunt chimneys standing which were tipped over to await the bulldozers.

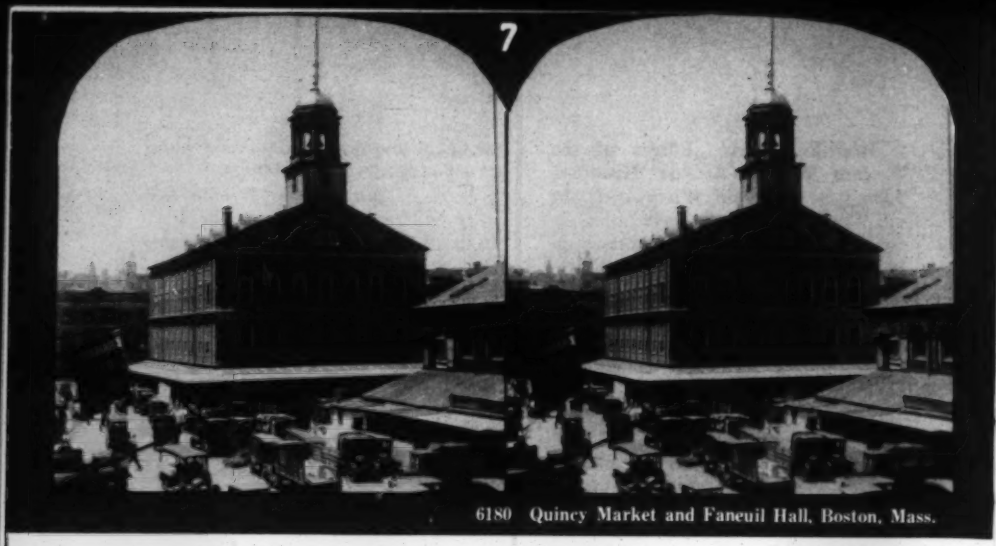
Rock Hill, S. C. A century-old mansion in a spacious garden, the Major John R. London House on Chatham Avenue, has been acquired by a local merchant and destroyed. The site will be used for business parking.

Roanoke, Va. Powel Mansion, lavishly built in the 1890's on the 1900 block of West Avenue, took two years to construct at the then fabulous cost of almost $30,000, and now has been demolished. Ten of its large rooms were capable of containing a house and lot of the modern subtopian development type. In 1911 the house was chartered as the Roanoke Sanitarium, which treated nervous and mental diseases as well as drug addiction and alcoholism. An early history of the city describes the Sanitarium, "It is within the city limits of Roanoke, the *Magic City*, on the most commanding height, giving a clear view of the entire city and the surrounding territory. The elevation is one thousand feet, and the beautiful scenery gives a feeling of inspiration and rest to the overwrought mind." The site will be used for a modern building for one of the nation's largest electrical corporations.

SAVE AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

A May 13 opening is planned at the Museum of Modern Art in New York for an exhibition, "Save American Architecture," co-sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art, *Architectural Forum*, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Three categories of nineteenth- and twentieth-century American structures will be featured: those which have been razed or otherwise lost, such as the Larkin Building; those essentially ruined by remodeling, such as Pennsylvania Station; and those which have been preserved in a worthwhile manner as the result of special efforts, such as the Robie House.

The exhibition will become a traveling show, to circulate throughout this country and eventually internationally.



6180 Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass.

BEEF BEFORE BAUBLES

Faneuil Hall, originally built in Boston in 1742 by the French Huguenot merchant, Peter Faneuil, as a market house with a large hall above for public meetings, is now facing a challenge from the Cellophane Age. The historic structure, to which James Otis gave its popular name, *The Cradle of Liberty,* was enlarged to its present form by Charles Bulfinch in 1805.

Right now the cradle is really rocking. There are those who refer to the historic market stalls as a "series of dirty little shops that dispense cuts of fresh meat, Christmas trees, fruit, vegetables and the like." The *Cradle* is in dire need of interior painting, cleaning and repairs; the exterior needs repointing; and something should be done about the backing up of tidewater in the cellars and the invasion of the attics by rats. There are two schools of thought on how this should be accomplished.

Walter Muir Whitehill, director and librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, reports from a number of historical societies and other defendants of the market house as a market in the January issue of *Athenaeum Items*:

> The widespread popular enthusiasm over historic restorations and reconstructions is now reaching the point where it imperils the safety of certain historic monuments that have survived to the present day. . . . In spite of recent efforts to popularize American history, the past, to many Americans, still means only a shadowy period beyond their own memories when people wore funny clothes and men sported whiskers or wigs. Thus many visitors to Boston, and some residents of the city who should know better, fail to understand the historical significance of the market stalls on the ground floor of Faneuil Hall. . . .
>
> Yet in the past few years there has been considerable agitation, in letters to the press and elsewhere, to displace the market stalls in favor of some synthetic tourist attraction. The proposals are varied. One would substitute a series of imitation eighteenth century "Shoppes," selling the kind of pseudo-picturesque souvenirs and knickknacks in which some tourists delight. Another would replace the market stalls with a "visitors' centre," complete with public toilets and telephones, rooms for tape recordings and a museum for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, who already have spacious quarters on the top floor of Faneuil Hall. These, or any other suggestions involving the displacement of the market, would not only alienate Faneuil Hall from the purpose for which it was given to the town 215 years ago, but would present the kind of spurious masquerade by which Chinese restaurant keepers decorate their dining rooms with a cheap department store imitation of an eighteenth century English chinoiserie

wall paper, in a pathetic effort to underline the obvious fact that they are Chinese. There is little intellectual honesty in substituting the imitation of an imitation for what is authentic. The ground floor of Faneuil Hall tells its own story as it stands.

In recent weeks the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities have all strongly opposed any step toward removing the markets from Faneuil Hall. The Massachusetts Historical Society recalls that the vote of thanks to Peter Faneuil, passed by the town meeting of 13 September 1742, makes clear that "the second story of the original building, containing a hall for town meetings and rooms in which the town officers could transact their business was a generous and happy afterthought of Peter Faneuil's. This afterthought has become enshrined in the patriotic memories of Americans because the pre-Revolutionary town meetings were held in Faneuil Hall, as were many of the Town and City receptions of visiting celebrities and public commemorative proceedings until late in the 19th century."

The Society's statement (drafted by L. H. Butterfield, Editor-in-Chief of *The Adams Papers*) continues: "But the market below was in operation, and considered no disfigurement when James Otis and Samuel Adams harangued their fellow citizens in the 1760's and 1770's; when Count D'Estaing and 500 French officers and other dignitaries dined in the hall as the guests of John Hancock in 1778; when receptions were held for General Lafayette in 1784, for President Washington in October 1789, for President Adams in August 1797, for President Jackson in June 1825; and when a memorial service, at which Daniel Webster was the speaker, was held for Jefferson and Adams in August 1826. The hall above the market acquired new historical associations in the 1830's and 1840's when Wendell Phillips and other orators addressed anti-slavery gatherings there. Earlier, for a brief period (1791-1794), one of the attic rooms had served as the first repository for the book and manuscript collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The collections survived their proximity to the butcher stalls, and this early association gives our Society a special interest in the maintenance of the historic functions of the building and area.

"In contemporary accounts of public festivities at Faneuil Hall the marketmen themselves are often listed as prominent participants. The 'Stallkeepers' are said to have marched in the procession honoring Washington on his visit to Boston in the fall of 1789. At the celebration marking the introduction of water by aqueduct from Cochituate in 1848, 'Conspicuous in the trades' procession was the delegation from Faneuil Hall Market, composed of two hundred marketmen attired in white linen frocks'—no doubt freshly laundered for the occasion. The marketmen organized their own celebration of the centennial of independence in 1876. It was on a vast scale, but possibly the most memorable incident connected with it was an observation of Governor Alexander H. Rice in the course of his address. 'If early fortune had left him the choice he thought he should have chosen above all other things to be a Faneuil Hall marketman.'"

The detractors of the market point out that the surrounding streets are littered and untidy. So were all eighteenth century streets, and so are—unhappily—many of the best twentieth century streets of Boston. The amount of rubbish that blows down Beacon Street on windy days and comes to roost on the Athenaeum's front door step is considerable. But the streets surrounding Faneuil Hall have delightful as well as distasteful clutter. As I write they are fragrant with the piles of spruce trees brought by trucks from the forests of northern New England. A season hence, lines of yews, willows and nursery stock will crowd the sidewalks as messengers of spring. At any season the pleasing sight of sides of beef and crates of vegetables being unloaded from trucks reminds the passerby of the vitality of an unbroken historical tradition that still serves a valued purpose in the present day life of Boston.

As the Boston *Globe* editorial of 2 December 1957, in the form of an open letter to Peter Faneuil, inquired: "Is there any good reason, Mr. Faneuil, why the market men who have for 200 years honorably conducted business in their present stalls should be dispossessed in favor of 'shoppes' selling tourists' trinkets, doodads, jimcracks and gewgaws, or a museum to replace a historic reality dating back to when you yourself bought your victuals thereabouts?

"No doubt you are happier where you are, but wouldn't you be willing to

Absent thee from felicity for awhile
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain
To set these people right?"

Monsignor Lally, editor of the *Pilot* (the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston), in an editorial entitled "Hands Off," says, among other things, "It all started when some tourists who hailed from Texas, or so we were informed, visited Boston to see the historic shrines here. They were shocked to discover—what we thought everyone knew—that the Cradle of Liberty, Faneuil Hall, was a *market* as well as a *hall*. It came as a jolt to these oil and cattle merchants from far away that the Boston Yankees in their pursuit of liberty were not unaware of the possibilities of an honest dollar. To have combined the common labors of a market on the first floor with the forensic possibilities of a meeting hall on the second was a bit of Yankee ingenuity not untypical either of the breed or of the place. The market, as if to prove the early Yankee point, is still active and prosperous and the hall continues likewise to hear the eloquent accents of present patriots."

Latest to join the ranks of the defenders of the market stalls is Francis W. Hatch, with a genuine weapon of the eighteenth century—the rhymed broadside. After printing his poetic call to arms in the Boston *Globe* of February 1, the president of The Tavern Club, and vice president of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Orborn, issued his *Beef before Baubles* war cry "in the name of Peter Faneuil" and "for the use of those Boston patriots who are backed by Honest Yankee beef." Its theme:

Bestir ye!
Peter Faneuil,
Old Frenchman in your grave,
'Twas not for tourist folderol
Your deed of trust you gave.

—H. D. B.

CO-OPERATIVE SHORT COURSES

New York Preservation Forum will be held April 22 and 23 at the Museum of the City of New York, under the joint auspices of the Museum and the National Trust. It is limited to 100 participants from governing boards and staffs of member organizations of the Trust and other historical societies and museums in the greater New York area. Directors are John Walden Myer, director of the Museum; and Richard H. Howland, president of the National Trust. Additional speakers on the program will be Carroll Lindsay, assistant curator of social history of the Smithsonian Institution; Carroll L. V. Meeks, associate professor of architecture and art history, Yale University; John M. Patterson, vice president of Crusade for Freedom, Inc.; Miss Janet Pinney, supervisor of educational department, Museum of the City of New York; Miss Barbara Snow, managing editor, *Antiques Magazine;* Frederick L. Rath, Jr., vice director, New York State Historical Association; and Gerald R. W. Watland, architect of New York. Mrs. R. McAneny Loud of the Museum is serving as registrar. Headquarters will be in the Museum.

Meeting in St. Louis; a Preservation Short Course is scheduled for April 24-26, co-sponsored by the National Trust and the Missouri Historical Society, assisted by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The latter is also offering five scholarships for especially qualified persons to attend. Directors of the course are Charles van Ravenswaay, director of the Society; and Richard H. Howland, president of the National Trust. The course will deal with standards and criteria for preservation projects; technical problems in

the small historic house museum; community efforts; and the architectural and cultural contributions of the Missouri area to America's heritage. Among the speakers, who will also conduct panel sessions and offer special consultation periods are: Mr. van Ravenswaay and Mr. Howland; Richard Hagen, historian of the Illinois Division of Parks and Memorials; Mrs. Wanda Ford, former president of the San Antonio Conservation Society, Texas; Miss Alice Winchester, editor, *Antiques Magazine;* Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock, historian of the National Trust; Samuel Wilson, Jr., F.A.I.A., author, historian, authority on the architecture of the Mississippi; Mrs. Margaret Brown Klapthor, associate curator, division of civil history of the Smithsonian Institution, specialist on historic costumes, their care and display; Carl Feiss, F.A.I.A., landscape architect, urban renewal consultant and city planner of Washington, D. C.; John Maass, visual presentation director of the city of Philadelphia, author of *The Gingerbread Age;* and Emmet J. Layton, landscape architect of St. Louis. In addition to the lecture program and panel discussions, there will be a guided tour of Ste. Genevieve, a dinner meeting in the historic Old St. Louis Courthouse and open house in some of the historic houses of the city. Registration is limited to 100 members of the two organizations in Missouri and adjacent states who are actively engaged in preservation activities.

Rhode Island Preservation Seminar is to be held May 9-11 in Providence, Bristol, and Newport under the joint auspices of the Providence Preservation Society and the National Trust. Among the subjects to be discussed, and the speakers who will lead the various sections of the program are: "Interpreting the Fabric and Structure of Old Buildings," Abbott Lowell Cummings of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; "Integrity of Research," Mrs. Helen Duprey Bullock of the National Trust; "Interpreting the Interior," Mrs. Nina Fletcher Little of Abbie Aldrich Rockefeller Museum of Folk Art, Williamsburg, Va.; "House Clinic," Mrs. Antoinette Downing of Providence Preservation Society; "The Search for Light," lecture demonstration by Herbert C. Darbee of Old Sturbridge Village, Mass.; Miss Barbara Wriston of Boston Museum of Fine Arts, presiding at dinner meeting; "Reconciliation and Restoration," Richard H. Howland of the National Trust; "Publicity and Promotion," John M. Patterson of Crusade for Freedom, Inc.; "The Historic Factor in Town Planning," Professor John Coolidge of the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; and Bruce Catton of *American Heritage* will speak at the final banquet on subjects to be announced. The program includes a tea at the Providence Historical Society; a guided bus tour of Bristol and Newport; lunch at newly restored White Horse Tavern; and a special program of choral music in the First Baptist Church of Providence. Registration is limited, and is restricted to members of the two organizations in Rhode Island and the immediate area.

PUBLICATIONS

The Buildings of England

Summer vacationists in England, as well as professional architectural historians, will find useful and stimulating information in the several volumes by Nikolaus Pevsner comprising *The Buildings of England* series. These paperback books have been published at intervals during the past few years,

each devoted to a single county. The most recent volume (1957) will perhaps be the most popular: *London I, The Cities of London and Westminster.*

The format of all the volumes is uniform. A brief introduction discusses the architectural history and development of an area in a chronological manner. Then follows a geographical listing and appraisal of the principal buildings in a county, with the cities, towns and villages arrayed alphabetically. An excellent glossary of architectural terms and helpful indices are included, as well as fine photographs and maps.

Mr. Pevsner has a sharp eye, a critical mind, and a condensed style. There is nothing quaint about these guide books, although there is often a trace of humor. The discerning reader will find them as absorbing at home in an armchair as he will while consulting them on tours.

The Buildings of England are available through all booksellers, or may be ordered from Penguin Books, 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Baltimore 11, Maryland. At the present time the following volumes are available:

London I, The Cities of London and Westminster; London II, Except the Cities of London and Westminster; Cambridgeshire; Cornwall; Derbyshire; North Devon; South Devon; Durham; Essex; Hertfordshire; Middlesex; and *Nottinghamshire.*

—R. H. H.

Minor and Major Mansions in Early Austin; an Edition Composite. By August Watkins Harris. Austin, private print, limited edition, 64 pp., illus., line drawings, and floor plans. $25.00.

The author, an Austin architect, has assembled the history of fourteen of Austin's most distinguished and architecturally significant historic houses. These summary histories are illustrated by the author with line drawings of the exteriors and carefully rendered floor plans drawn to scale. The houses range in character from the Wahrmann house (c. 1845) of stuccoed stone with a modest two rooms, to the palatial Woodlawn House (1853), the residence of Governor Elisha Marshall Pease and five generations of his descendants. It was recently sold by the last generation to former Governor Shivers who has restored it as a residence.

Nature and the American. By Hans Huth. University of California Press, 250 pp., illus., $7.50.

The changing American attitudes toward nature over three centuries is traced, presenting the basic developments which led to the conservation movement. In colonial days and as pioneers pushed the frontier farther west, the American attitude was symbolized by the broadaxe. Enormous amounts of timber were felled to make farmland; natural resources were considered inexhaustible and available to all for commercial exploitation. Today, no longer permitted to choose between the destruction of natural resources and their conservation, the public is prepared to maintain and defend great conservation projects, and the National Park Service and Forest Service administer large-scale programs of resource protection. The change was the result of the confluences of many social and cultural trends, and the author seeks out the manifestations of these trends in science, philosophy, literature, art, vacation travel, and political life.

Mr. Huth is a charter member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a consultant to the National Park Service on historical matters.

MERCHANTS HOPE CHURCH

Merchants Hope Church Foundation, Inc., was formed to save Merchants Hope Church, Hopewell, Va., one of the oldest Protestant churches in America, endangered through neglect. According to the Foundation, "The completion date is undoubtedly 1657 as that is the date deeply cut into one of the original rafters when it was built and these original rafters are still in place."

The original flagstones in the aisles are almost intact. All the interior furnishings of the church were destroyed during the Civil War, when Union soldiers used it as a picket station. It is thought that the stairway to the balcony and the handrail across the front of the balcony are probably original.

The Foundation has set a goal of $150,000 to repair, restore, and endow the early brick church, with $10,000 required immediately in order to carry on the most urgent repairs. Since the present floors, pews, chancel, wood ceiling, wood wainscoting, and small dressing room at the rear were probably put in about 1870, all of this will come out and be replaced with replicas of old features. The roof beams must also be strengthened and the roof repaired.

Plans also call for the erection of a colonial brick wall around the churchyard, to frame and protect it, and for the construction of a caretaker's residence back of the church, so that it may be kept open to the public and have permanent care.

Rev. S. Janney Hutton, rector of St. John's Church, Hopewell, states "that it is remarkable that just fifty years following the first permanent settlement at Jamestown in 1607, the settlers could build such a beautiful and sturdy church that it has stood for 300 years as a witness to the fact that America was founded on God, and a symbol of the religious strength of the pioneers who settled the Virginia Colony."

HERITAGE WEEK PROGRAM

Moses Brown School in Providence, R. I., pioneered in 1950 a short course in Rhode Island history. Taught at a junior high school level, the yearly project of murals and models of Rhode Island historical houses and scenes is jointly sponsored by the history and art departments. Plays and pageants written by the boys and exhibits and formal Last Day speeches have grown from the plan. Emphasis is placed on social rather than political history, and class trips are organized to Rhode Island historic sites. The small size of the state makes all such points of interest easily accessible to students.

The boys in the illustration are working on their project for Heritage Week, celebrated each year to honor the Rhode Island Declaration of Independence on May 4, 1776. Each boy made a painting of the house upon which he conducted research, on both the period and builder. The best paintings were selected for a mural, making the background for the imaginary Rhode Island village shown here.

Increased interest of parents as well as students in Rhode Island arts, crafts, and history has been one of the major accomplishments of the Moses Brown study.

—Eleanor Bradford Monahon

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